

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): An antibody
which has a positive reactivity against myeloid cells and
which recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ
ID NO: 1 that has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.

Claim 12 (New): The antibody of Claim 11 which is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 13 (New): The monoclonal antibody of Claim 12 which is IgM.

Claim 14 (New): The antibody of Claim 12 which is produced by the hybridoma
deposited under the accession number FERM BP-4433.

Claim 15 (New): A hybridoma which produces a monoclonal antibody
which has a positive reactivity against myeloid cells and
which recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ
ID NO: 1 that has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.

Claim 16 (New): The hybridoma of claim 14, which produces an IgM monoclonal
antibody.

Claim 17 (New): The hybridoma of claim 14 deposited under accession number FERM BP-4433 (RS38).

Claim 18 (New): A method for identifying a synovial cell comprising:
contacting a synovial cell with the antibody of claim 11 for a time and under conditions suitable for binding of the antibody to the synovial cell,
and measuring binding.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein said synovial cell is from a subject having rheumatoid arthritis.

Claim 20 (New): A method for identifying a subject having rheumatoid arthritis comprising:
contacting a synovial cell from a subject suspected of having rheumatoid arthritis with the antibody of claim 11 for a time and under conditions suitable for binding, and
determining binding of said antibody to said synovial cell, wherein the occurrence of, or the amount of, binding identifies rheumatoid arthritis in said subject.